THE WAY THE SIGNAL CORPS DID IT DOUGHBOYS BUILD



(U.S. Army Official Photograph)

50,000 INQUIRERS GIVEN PROPER STEER

Soldiers' Service Department | Lieut. Estep Photographs Averages 1,500 Letters a Week

Poker, Chevrons, Naturalization, Wives and Earthquakes All Asked About

The Soldiers' Service Department of THE STARS AND STRIPES established a record for itself jast Saturday when 500 letters from members of the A.E.F. were placed in its hands. And while this brief summary of its work is the first occasion on which even the fact of its existence has been made known to the Army, still the Soldiers' Service Department bas been receiving, for the past four months, an average of 1,500 letters every week. It has sent out something over 50,000 letters in eight months, written mostly by a man named Smith. What are they about? Everything. Can men who came over with General Pershing wear a star in addition to their service stripes? Can anyone in the A.E.F. wear the fourragère? Can an an American soldier be discharged in France? When are we going home? How do I get previous enlistement pay? Whereabouts in America will the free farms for soldiers be located? Tell my mother I'm all right. How can I be naturalized? How can I take a course in jurisprudence in a French university after the war? What's all this talk about a new uniform? Must I have a birth certificate to marry a French girl? Those are just general questions. For every one mentioned above, the Soldiers' Service Department can show dozense sometimes hundreds of identical queriess.

Just as Hard to Look Up

Here are a few more specific samples.

with that one; the disaster of the substantial end in a small value and the date? (Apparently he knows who won.)

Queries like and only he knows who who where the date? (Apparently he knows who with that department estimate on the been pouring in in such both every short which as a department simply had to be created to a tiend to them. So it was, it started in a small way and grew with the date and the first of the department estimate on the break present over the like it all their troubles. And now that the date are concerned over now. It is the date that the department estimate over now. It is the date that the department estimate over now. It is all their troubles. And now that the date are concerned over now. It is all their troubles. And now that the hing to show prospects of really terminating sometime, there is no harm in letting the Army know that the Shat, it?

On Big Questions Now here concerned to the cassalited as killed, has a concerned to the cassal

many paydays has been disposed of in consequence.

A few weeks ago the Soldiers' Service Department received word that six American Catholic soldiers were dying in a hospital near Paris. A priest was wanted, and a priest could not be found to the folks back home are shown what St. Mihiel was like, why the World Almanac to settle, not an answer to be prepared through a consultation of the file of G.O.'s and a typewriter. The department located a priest though, and the priest was carried to the bospital in a STARS AND STRIPES car in time to administer the last rites to the dying men.

And the next day several hundred, or at least a dozen, men wrote in to learn about the Mexican service stripe.

CAMERA MAN KILLED, PLATES GIVE UP TALE

Hill Which Quickly Becomes His Grave

ARMY'S WAGERS SETTLED DIES IN SIGHT OF SEDAN

Pictures Reveal Drama of Burst ing Shells and Crawling Men Above Deadly Valley

department exists—anyway, they tell it all their troubles. And now that the Army's stay in foreign parts is beginning to show prospects of really terminating sometime, there is no harm in letting the Army know that the S.S.D. has been doing business all along.

One Big Question Now

There is just about one question that inquirers are concerned over now. It is phrased in a thousand ways, but the whole thousand come down to this: When are we going home?

Ask us. We don't know. We are personally interested, too; we don't intend to linger on here with no Army to write about. When the S.S.D. gets a question like that, it answers it to the best of its ability, either by admitting frankly that it doesn't know, or by giving the inquirer the right steer. That, in a word, is the idea of the S.S.D.—to give the soldier the right steer. If it can't answer his question, it at least tells him who can, if an arswer is reasonably possible.

The S.S.D. has had thousands and thousands of france at its disposal. Every third man or so who writes in wants an argument settled which, he proudly states, he has backed in the coin of the realm, and the fruit of many paydays has been disposed of in consequence.

A few weeks ago the Soldiers' Service Possertement received word that six

or at least a dozen, men wrote in to in almost every other branch of the learn about the Mexican service stripe, service, helping build bridges and haul

back wounded. In addition, there are several photographers who can tell you manful tales of close-up fighting with the enemy and of prisoners taken at the point of a lens.

One thing they'll emphasize, though. That is, it's dangerous to use a movie camera too near the front. It will draw fire. It looks too much like a new-fangled machine gun, and a doughboy can't always stop to inquire delicately who is behind it when he sees a movie machine poked at him from a clump of trees. Many a movie man has faced the danger from doughboy guns which were trained on a supposed machine gun nest which was only a moving picture camera nest.

ON THE RIGHT TRAIL

Courier: Where can I find Major Cactics?
Third Assistant Adjutant: Never neard of him. What's he in? Courier: Search me. The Army, I suppose.

WILSON

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TRENCHES IN S.O.S.

Infantrymen Set Record for Rolling Kitchens Finally Al-Cable Laying in Four Day Job

The first anniversary of the establishment of the United States Signal Corps office in Base Section No. 2 came this The number of messages haniled daily has jumped during the year

dled daily has jumped during the year from three to several thousand, making the office second only to that at Tours.

At 6:15 p.m. on November 15, 1917, Corporal Fred C. Moffat opened American telegraphic communications between Bordeaux and Paris. Three telegrams were transmitted that evening.

By November 15, 1918, the office, which one year ago could have been housed in a drygoods box, had expanded to an establishment requiring a personnel of 50 men and a plant with 32 desk positions from which radiate circuits to 25 outside cities and camps. This central office handled on October 8, 4,620 telegrams, and on November 14, 3,177.

Some Speedy Roughbay

Some Speedy Doughboys

Some Speedy Doughboys

To doughboys stationed at a rest camp near by goes the credit for making one of the quickest wire-laying jobs on record. At the time the telephone exchange was moved from its former location to the new headquarters it was necessary to install 100 circuits between the new building and the French Exchange, a distance of nearly a mile, through the busiest part of the business district. The presence of signal and power wires in the air at various points made the installation of an aerial cable impracticable.

A full Infantry company of 220 men was selected for the duty. They went to work at 7 p.m. with picks and shovels, and, with the aid of 12 acety-later and the searchlights, they worked all night. At 7 a.m. they were relieved by another infantry company, augmented by the original 50 men and 20 colored Steve-borginal 50 men and 50 colored 50 men and 50 men

dores.

The work continued in this way from 7 p.m. Friday night until 2 a.m. Monday, when the last shovelful of earth was thrown into the trench.

J. COQUILLOT

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BORDEAUX RELENTS, AND YANKS GET FED SHOE SHINE

lowed to Clutter Classic Streets

All the traditions of the city of Bordeaux, from the time of the Roman conquest down, were broken the other day in order that a detachment of doughboys might be served with hot dinners while they were employed in work on an electric cable in the heart of the city.

It was a day and night tab and the

work on an electric cable in the heart of the city.

It was a day and night job, and the officers desired to ad to the comfort of the men as much as possible by setting up some Army kitchens in one of the streets and serving piping hot coffee and chow.

But the gendarme, representative of French law and order, objected. Capt. W. R. Matheny, Signal Officer, took the matter up with the chief of police, and finally with the mayor. The latter demurred, owing to the fact that there was no law or custom whereby such a thing could be done.

He, however, finally gave in on condition that a side street should be used and the street closed for the time being, with an M.P. at each end.

This was duly done, and the hot meals were served.

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